ओवर हैड एक्सपैंसिज और फायनेंसियल कन्करेंस लिए बिना इन्होंने भ्रष्टाचार किया है मैंने इसकी विस्तृत जानकारी भी अपने प्रश्न में मांगी थी। क्या आप यह जानकारी देने की कृपा करेंगे?

श्री शांता कुमार: सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य को कुछ जानकारी तो दे दी गई है और बाकी की पूरी जानकारी मेरे पास है। अगर आप निर्देश दें तो मैं उसको पढ़कर सुना सकता हूं। लेकिन पढ़ने के बजाय मैं सारी जानकारी सदन के पटल पर रख दूंगा।

श्री अमर सिंह: सभापति महोदय, यदि सरकार यह मानती है कि भ्रष्टाचार हुआ है और संबंधित अधिकारियों को पिन पाइंट भी कर दिया गया है तो क्या उन्होंने इनको सजा देने के लिए कोई टाइम फ्रेम बनाया है? या इसी तरह के उत्तर मिलते रहेंगे। "The Government has soght additonal information for processing the matter. Allegations relate to the year 1998." क्योंकि अक्सर देखा गया है, ये भ्रष्ट अधिकारी-जस्टिस डिलेड इज जस्टिस डिनाइड, तो क्या आप इनको सजा दिलवाने के लिए कोई टाइम फ्रेम फिक्स कर रहे हैं जिससे भ्रष्ट अधिकारियों को शीघ्र सजा दिलवाई जा सके?

श्री शांता कुमार: सभापति महोदय, ये शिकायतें वर्ष 1998-99 की हैं। इन पर कार्रवाई हो रही है। एक मामला सीबीआई को दिया जा चुका है, चार्ज शीट दी जा रही है। अतिशीघ्र कार्रवाई होगी और अतिशीघ्र इनको सजा दिलवाने का प्रयत्न होगा।

Ban on B-Complex

*282. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PAIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled "careful, if you pop vitamin-B pills" and "B-complex banned", which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 29th October, 1999;

(b) if so, what factors led to such ban; and

(c) what are the other alternative proposed to the cure of neurological disorders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government prohibited under Section 26-A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 vide G.S.R. No. 702 (E) dated 14.10.1999, the manufacture, sale or distribution of Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) of Vitamin B_1, Vitamin B_6 and Vitamin B_{12} for

human use with effect from 1st January, 2001 in public interest on the ground that the use of the above FDC is irrational and does not have the therapeutic value claimed or purported to be claimed for it.

(c) If any of these three vitamins is needed for a specific neurological disorder, the individual Vitamin continued to remain available in the market for use.

DR. GAPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Sir, Vitamin-B complex and some of the fixed dose combinations are being bought. But, even the common people are aware that Vitamin-B Complex is not at all, in any way, dangerous to health. The body absorbs whatever dose it requires, and if it is in excess, it is excreted out in the urine. It is not as dangerous as many other drugs are, and therefore, it does not appeal to reasons as to why such a ban is applied on Vitamin-B Complex formulations particularly, fixed dose combination. That is my first supplementary.

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Sir, the Vitamin-B Complex formulations have not been banned, Only the fixed dose combination of Vitamin-B_1, Vitamin-B_6 and Vitamin-B_{12} is being phased out with effect from 1st January 2001. We have not banned the Vitamin-B Complex formulations as such. In all countries, such preparations are commonly used for deficiencies.

DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: My second supplementary is that the problem in our country is that of various formulations. There are basic drugs and generic drugs and they are sold in combination. Sir, generic drugs which are needed for common people are very few. Their number may be about 500. But the number of formulation is 50,000 and the pharmaceutical industry indulges in formulations so that they can get more profit. So, they raise the cost of various formulations, and therefore, certain other drugs are much more dangerous. But they are not banned. The people commonly use paracetamol and ibu brufane and there is a comibation say, combifor super and other things. The other drug, that is, ibu brufane is much more powerful and dangerous and it is not needed for headache and for many complaints. Such drugs are not banned. They are being sold at a very high price. I would like to know whether the Government will take this thing into consideration, and in the interest of common

people, poor people whether they will ban such general combination of drugs which are much more hazardous to health, and form only generic drugs and sell them at a lower cost. If the Government do so, it would be in the national interest and in the interest of the poor people of this country.

SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM: Sir, the drug, apart from being safe, is also required to be therapeutically justified. It must be a rational one. Therefore, the Central Government has got power under section 26-A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to prohibit a drug which does not have the therapeutic value claimed or purported to be claimed, and which contains such quantities for which there is no therapeutic justification. The screening of drug formulations is a continuous activity. A committee of experts is being constituted by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board who will be examining the formulations reported to be harmful. So, if the hon. Member brings any such case to my notice, I will ask the screening committee to evaluate the value of these drugs and will see to it whether there is any necessity to ban these drugs.

DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Sir, I would like to put a question to the hon. Minister. Are you manufacturing generic drugs, drugs by generic names only? If it is so, then why instead of 500 drugs, there are 50,000 drugs?

SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM: Sir, we will consider it.

DR. M. N. DAS: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to an unspecific type of neurological disorder which has now struck Orissa after the super cyclone. I have received harrowing tales of how men, women and children are losing their mental balance, suffering from nervous breakdown, even verging upon madness, and out of shock, some people are becoming dumb. Is the Government aware of this fact? If so, is the hon. Minister taking proper care to despatch specific neurological medicines for treatment of abnormal persons?

SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM: A Central team of Special Doctors visited that place, and we are waiting for a report from the Special Doctors' team, and after receiving the report, we will consider their suggestions. I appreciate the concern of the Member and, therefore, I will consider it very seriously and do the needful.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Sir, I have two questions for the hon. Minister. First of all, if it was found that the drug is not necessary, why did the Government take such a long time to ban it? It is a good business for pharmaceutical companies to encourage people to take it or to often use it as dietary supplement. Even we used to think that Vitamin B-Complex pill would improve the nutritional value of our food, if taken together with the food. If it is bad, if it is not necessary, why did the Government ban it after such a long time? Have the pharmaceutical industry's interests got something to do with it?

Part (b) is: If the Government has banned it, has it been properly advertised? To my knowledge, a bowl of spinach is as useful as a Vitamin B-complex tablet and a poor man who can not buy Vitamin B-Complex tablets, can buy spinach, and it is poor man's food in India, So, has it been properly advertised for public awareness?

SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM: Sir, most of the pharmaceuticals are approved by the licensing authority of the State Governments. Before a licence is given, they are approved by the State licensing authority. They are giving the licence, and it has been in use for decades, and it is actually prescribed by the doctors. Therefore, at the time of screening if we come to know that the drug is toxic, we ban the medicine. As it has been in use for decades, we are giving some more time to doctors to prescribe alternate medicine. That is why there is a delay.

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you thinking of banning Vitamin B-Complex pills totaly? ....*(Interruptions)*.... What about the advertisement?

SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM: I have noted the suggestion, and we will advertise it properly to make the people aware of the situation in respect of the medicine which has been banned by the Government.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, medicines can do good, but they can be fatal if not used with proper medical advice. Sir, what is happening in most of the foreign countries, in the developed countries, these medicines are given by the pharmacists only against a prescription, but here it is just available. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would like to make a definite rule and implement it so that a medicine which is to be given against a prescription, is not given without a prescription.

Sir, the second point that I want to mention, Mr. Chairman, is that in the absence of a clear-cut policy to ensure the channelised drug production in certain directions, what will prevent a major share of production from being diverted to non-essential area. Will you like to make this drug policy not only transparent but also effective so that the producers, specially MNCs, do not divert their production into non-essential areas?

SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM: Drugs should be given to the patients only through a prescription. I have also noted down the hon. Member's suggestion that in some areas, medicines are being given without prescription. There is a rule that medicines should be given only with prescription and this rule should be followed. Therefore, I will see to it that instructions are issued to the authorities to effectively follow the instructions that medicines should be given to the patients only when there is a prescription.

श्री नरेश यादव: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि देश में आम तौर पर इलाज, शहरों को छोड़कर, डाक्टर रोगी को ऐसे ही देखकर करते हैं। आम तौर पर डाक्टर हर पर्ची के प्रेस्क्रिप्शन के बाद एक विटामिन की दवाई लास्ट में लिख देते हैं। वह विटामिन जो आज आम तौर पर गांव में प्रयोग में लाई जाती हैं जिसे डाक्टर अंतिम पांचवे, छठे कालम में लिख देता है, वह मनुष्य या रोगी के लिए कितनी उपयोगी है?

नम्बर (ख) में मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि विटामिन में सिरप भी आते हैं जिसमें एल्कोहल की मात्रा ज्यादा दी जाती है और इसके नाम पर लोग इस दवाई को, एल्कोहल को, सिरप को पी रहे हैं। उसकी कितनी मात्रा मनुष्य के पीने के लिए उपयुक्त है, इसकी क्या आपने जांच कराई है, यह मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question does not arise out of this.

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY: Sir, while giving the answer to the main question, the hon. Minister mentioned about the authority and the power of the Government. But the point is not that. I have got a specific question to put. Do we have a National formulary, as most of the countries have? If so, how often is it being updated? When was it last updated? Secondly, Sir, there was a suggestion from the World Health Organisation that we should have an essential drugs list and that essential drugs list should have only 256 items which are necessary for our health. Our own Committee of Parliament, sometime back, that in 1974, had given a report. That

Committee is popularly called the Hathi Committee, headed by Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, who was a Member of the Parliament. That Committee had given a very famous Report in which it was suggested that there should only be 117 essential drugs which are just enough for our primary health needs. We can add some more for secondary and tertiary health needs. I would like to know from the Minister as to what happened to that Hathi Committee report. Because that would reduce the cost, both to the country and to the individual patients. We have got irrational formulations, harmful and banned drugs and spurious drugs. All these things are going on in the market. I am a medical man and I have got some information on the subject. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what steps are being taken to control all these things?

SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM: The National Essential Drugs list was formulated in the year 1996. As per the recommendations of the World Health Organisation, it contains 250 drugs. Now, after the Parliamentary Committee's recommendations, this essential drugs list containing 117 drugs is being examined. It is being reviewed. After the examination, we will be in a position to decrease the number of drugs from the list.

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY: The Hathi Committee report came in 1974 and now it is 1999.

SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM: I am in agreement with the views expressed by the hon. Member. We will consider it and take necessary action in the matter.

अप्रचलित रेल सिग्नलिंग प्रणाली

*283. **प्रो॰ राम गोपाल यादव:**
श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक:

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में ऐसे रेलवे स्टेशनों की संख्या कितनी है जहां सिग्नलों के गियर अपनी निर्धारित मियाद वर्षों पहले पूरी कर चुके हैं और अक्सर खराब रहते हैं;

(ख) क्या बहुत सी रेल दुर्घटनाएं महज इन सिग्नलिंग प्रणालियों के कारण हुई हैं;

(ग) क्या इन प्रणालियों को पूरी तरह से बदलने में सरकार को कोई परेशानी है; और